



US EPA Region 8 Gold King Mine Release Incident Deployment Guide

DRAFT

September 5, 2015

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide overall deployment procedures and information for EPA response personnel deploying to an incident. Incident specific information will be added to this document or distributed with this document. Please be sure to review this document and complete requirements as described and within described timeframes.

Additional regional resources:

US EPA Region 8, Response Support Corps Implementation Plan, November 8, 2007
US EPA Region 8, Incident Management Team Implementation Plan, December 17, 2007
US EPA Order 2070, Incident Management Teams, November 12, 2008
US EPA Order 2072, Response Support Corps, August 4, 2009

2. Incident Description/Situation Overview

On August 5, 2015, EPA was conducting an investigation of the Gold King Mine. The intent of the investigation was to assess the on-going water releases from the mine and to assess the feasibility of mine water treatment. The plan was to excavate the loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry back to the timbering. During the excavation, the loose material gave way, opening the adit (mine tunnel) and spilling the large volume of water stored behind into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately one million gallons of water (estimated from the dimensions of the mine adit) that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

The large pulse of water dissipated in about an hour. In fact today the water in Cement Creek and the Animas in Silverton is no longer orange and is clearing. The adit is still discharging lower flows into Cement Creek. EPA Region 8 has built four treatment ponds from the adit, one pond holds enough water for 1 hour flow, the other ponds hold enough water for two hour flow. EPA are treating the mine water diverted to the ponds with caustic soda and flocculent once the ponds are built. .

EPA is coordinating with ATSDR in response to public health concerns/questions associated with the mine waste plume. ATSDR has been in communication with local health officials at San Juan Basin Health in La Plata County Colorado and San Juan County Health Department located in San Juan County Colorado. Public health questions/concerns should be directed to Chris Poulet, ATSDR/R8 at 303-312-7013.

EPA Region 8 has been coordinating with Region 6 in Dallas, Texas. Region 6 is working closely with the New Mexico Environment Department to evaluate possible impacts in New Mexico. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water in homes is protected. EPA.

Location Information:

Gold King Mine, Silverton, Colorado, San Juan County

ICP 135 Burnett Street, Durango Colorado

3. Travel Arrangements and Funding

All travel arrangements and TAs need to be coordinated with:

Christine Portillos at 303-312-7284

The closest airport is the Durango-La Plata Airport (DRO).

****Please note if you will be working up at the mine site, you will not need lodging as contracted lodging has been procured in Silverton.**

Rental car companies with rental counters at the Durango-La Plata Airport:

Alamo
Avis
Enterprise
Hertz
National

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Durango Hotels:

Durango Downtown Inn

800 Camino Del Rio

Durango, CO 81301

Phone: (970) 247-5393

Hotel Manager -- Steven

Room Rate: \$125/night – call the hotel directly to get this rate.

Please note that all hotels will have limited availability on Labor Day weekend.

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites (closest to office)

21636 US-160

Durango, CO 81301

Phone: (970) 385-6400

Honoring government rate (\$141.00) if rooms are available. If you are unable to make a reservation through Concur or BCD Travel, call the hotel directly and ask for Stephanie (Front Desk Manager) or Phoebe (Sales Director).|

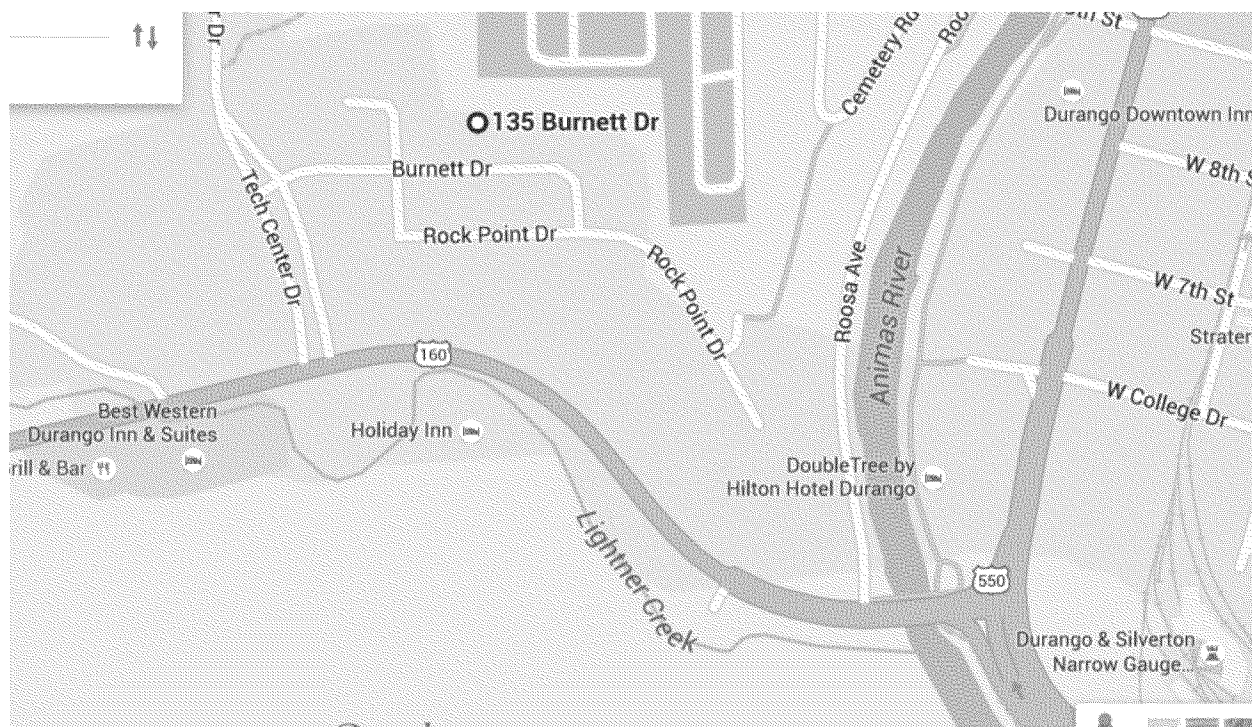
Your home office will fund your travel. For Region 8 travelers, the following cross funding should be added to your Travel Authorizations as follows:

Organization: **EPAR08EPR**
Label: **15 R8 EPR Cross Funding1**

Travelers from other regions and headquarters need use their Removal accounting with the **Gold King Mine Release SSID: A8K9RV00**.

4. Check in/Check out Procedures

Upon arrival, please check in with the Area Commander or Incident Commander based upon assignment to the Area Command or the Incident Command, or Resource Unit Leader, located at 135 Burnett Drive, Durango, Colorado. The map below shows the location of the Area/Incident Command Post, the Holiday Inn and the Durango Downtown Inn:



5. Deployment Operational Hours

The required schedule for each deployment will vary, however you should expect to work long hours under potentially stressful conditions, typically, 12 to 14 hours per day, 7 days a week. The expected duration of the deployment will be two-week increments with additional days for an overlap of personnel coming into the position being trained by the outgoing OSC.

Specific work hours will be assigned once on site. At this time, we are only operating one day shift, no night operations.

6. Equipment

The required equipment for each deployment will vary, however, it is generally recommended that you bring the following when possible: laptop with charger, government cell phone with charger, EPA ID clothing, MiFi's, government issued calling card or teleconferencing card and flash drive(s).

Any equipment checked out for deployment will need to be checked back in either prior to demobilization from the incident or upon return to your regional office depending on the originating source of the equipment.

7. Health and Safety

All deployments are filled through the resource ordering system managed by the EPA Removal Program/Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs). Positions are ordered by the Incident Commander as determined by the mission requirements. Position requests will include the expertise, training, certifications and past experience needed.

It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to clearly articulate health and safety and any other special requirements (e.g. safety training).

Once on site, please familiarize yourself with reporting procedures for any health and safety emergencies and/or concerns as well as contact information and locations of first aid stations and medical facilities.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

For this response, deployees should be prepared for mostly IMT/ICP casual comfortable clothing. If you'll be deployed for field work we will work with you individually on your PPE needs.

Weather/Environment Awareness:

If your deployment requires field work or spending time outside, please check the weather and be aware of changes in weather. You will need to plan on bringing clothing suitable for the deployment conditions.

Special Needs:

The available amenities for each deployment will vary; however, it is generally recommended that you bring with you from home any personal items you may need during your deployment such as medications.

Security:

Security procedures will vary for each deployment, but generally, plan on wearing your EPA ID (or deployment issued ID) visibly above the waist during your deployment unless the incident dictates alternate procedures.

Once on site, please familiarize yourself with reporting procedures for any security emergencies and/or concerns as well as locations and contact information for onsite or the nearest offsite security.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM):

On site CISM services availability will vary by incident. If there are no CISM services available at the incident, or for use upon return from the incident, our Region 8 CISM contacts are Johanna Miller, EPR-SA and Wendy Thomi 8-MO. As an additional resource, please see the attached Stress Management Pre-deployment Tool Kit.

8. Finance

If you have questions or concerns regarding PeoplePlus reporting or charging, please contact the Finance Section Chief or your home office's PeoplePlus Coordinator.

Instructions for PeoplePlus

Regular Hours (REGHR) – Regular hours are to be charged to your FAN with the **Gold King Mine Release SSID: A8K9RV00**. Please contact your home office's PPL coordinator or Funds coordinator to have this added to your account favorites. New accounting with the SSID needs to be added to your Account Favorites.

Overtime (OVTHR) – Only overtime is approved for this response, no comp-time accruals are allowed. Travel Comp Time requests should be completed where warranted. All Overtime requests should be approved and processed according to your home office's process prior to earning overtime. If WebForms is not available, a Request for Overtime Authorization is attached. You can also contact the Finance Section Chief for a copy of the form. Overtime is to be charged to: **2015 T 08L 303DC6 A8K9RV00**. Please contact your home office's PPL coordinator or Funds coordinator to have this added to your Account Favorites in PPL.

Waiver of Bi-weekly Pay Cap – Region 8 EPR will provide a list every two weeks of employees who are included in the pay-cap waiver, along with any changes (i.e., additions, deletions) highlighted. This will be submitted by Wednesday of the first week of the pay period to Region 8 HR, and then will be submitted to the Cincinnati HR SSC by Thursday. The Cincinnati HR SSC will process the personnel action for all employees serviced by their office,

and ensure that the actions for employees serviced by other HR SSCs are entered as well. Changes put in place during the second week of the pay period will be submitted on the list for the following pay period and will be processed retroactively. **Note:** Lifting the bi-weekly pay cap does not remove the limits on annual pay caps.

PeoplePlus Account Code Favorites – Your home Finance Office will notify you directly once the appropriate accounts have been established in your PPL account code favorites for charging your hours to the site. Region 8 employees need to contact Judy Hansen at (303) 312-6417 to have the accounting for the Gold King Mine Release added to Account Favorites in PPL. EPA employees outside of Region 8, need to contact their PPL coordinator or Funds Coordinator

Timesheet – If PPL is not available, submit the attached completed time sheet to your supervisor and to Christine Portillos (portillos.christine@epa.gov) NLT noon on the second Thursday of the pay period. Update your time in PPL and attest and submit if you have access. If not, Christine can enter time on behalf of Region 8 employees. Please let her know if you need assistance. Out of region employees should coordinate with their respective regional PPL Coordinators and/or timekeepers. (See attached Excel version of the timesheet or you may use the hardcopy version below.).

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EXHIBIT 3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TIMECARD

Employee Name: _____

Frequently Used TRC's ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

REGHR - Regular Basic Pay
OVTHR - Overtime
NTDIF - Night Differential
NTDOT - Night Differential OT
HAZ25 - Hazard Pay - 25%
OTH25 - OT Hazard Pay - 25%

Pay Period End Date: _____

Page _____ of _____

Home Region/Program Office: _____

Week 1

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	ROW TOTAL	TRC	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sub Total Week 1	

Week 2

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	ROW TOTAL	TRC	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
							0		
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sub Total Week 2	

I certify the hours posted above are accurate for the work performed.

Printed Name of Field Supervisor: _____

Employee
Signature: _____

Signature of Field Supervisor: _____



United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

REQUEST FOR OVERTIME AUTHORIZATION

1. For Pay Period: _____ From _____ To _____	2. Check One <input type="checkbox"/> Original Request <input type="checkbox"/> Extension	3. Estimated Cost: _____
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Authority for approving payment for overtime, or the allowance of compensatory time in lieu of payment for overtime, is reserved only to those officials stated in agency delegations.

Overtime must be authorized prior to its performance except in cases of emergency, and overtime actually worked under this authorization must be recorded on the employee's Time and Attendance Report (T & A) Card, EPA Form 2565-1, 2, or 3.

4. Justification or Reason: _____

Line #	5. Employee's Name	6. Employee ID Number	7. Estimated Number of Hours			
			Grade or Rate	His. OT	Comp. Time	Dates
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

9. Financial and Accounting Data

Line	DOC# (Max 2)	Budget FYs (Max 4)	Appropriation Code (Max 6)	Budget Comp Code (Max 7)	Program Element (Max 9)	Object Class (Max 4)	SFO (Max 2)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

	Amount (Dollars)	(Cents)	Sub/Project (Max 8)	Cost Comp Code (Max 7)
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

10. Requested By: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____
11. Approved By: _____	Title: _____	Date: _____

EPA Form 2565-7 (Rev. 3-08) (Web-Form v2.1.2) Electronic and Paper versions acceptable
Previous editions are obsolete

Original - Timekeeper; Copy 1 - Commitment Clerk
Copy 2 - Approving Official